The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and official interpretations of matters affecting labor unions to the labor, industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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WHOLE NO. 1942 WILLIAM GREEN, President WASHINGTON, D. C., TUESDAY, JUNE 29, 1948 GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer VOL. 38, NO. 26

Are You REGISTERED?

Nonfarm Jobs Put at 44,500,000 in May; High Employment Not Uniform in Nation

Washington.—The number of workers employed in non-agricultural jobs numbered 44,500,000 in mid-May, a ga.n of 240,000 over April, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The increase resulted from expanded construction activity, better material supplies, and the end of the soft coal work stoppage, the BLS said.

Total employment was nearly 1,- 200,000 above a year ago, with most of the increase distributed among the manufacturing, construction, trade, and service categories.

At the same time, unemployment was reported down by about 10 per cent from last year.

Commenting upon the employment picture, Ewan Clague, Commissioner of Labor Statistics, said:

"The present high level of employment is not found uniformly throughout all industries and areas, however, because it is a result of several adverse factors. The most noticeable of these influences is the seasonal movement which characterizes many sectors of the economy. But of more basic significance is the persistent demand for goods and services which is supporting industrial production at record highs. It is in this factor in which explains why, despite an increase of a million in the nation's labor force over the past year, unemployment actually fell and almost every major industry expanded its 1947 roll.

"Partly offsetting the spring upturn which normally occurs in many lines is the usual postseater employment slack in some of the consumers' goods industries. It is noteworthy, however, that both the apparel and textile groups are showing a somewhat milder seasonal drop than usual, and are well above the comparable level of 1947. Both groups, in fact, are at all-time highs for this season of the year.

"On the other hand, the leather industry is experiencing a greater than usual seasonal downturn. This illustrates a third factor currently influencing employment trends: the readjustments in consumers' industries in which production has largely caught up with demand backlogs. Since March, employment in the leather group has fallen by about 40,000 or 10 percent, as against a drop only half that large last year. Similarly, employment in the rubber industry, which is also declining fairly steadily for more than a year, is now about 10 percent below the levels of a year ago.

"The irregularities and shortages of materials have been a fourth element affecting employment trends this spring, by forcing many plants to curtail or even temporarily close shutdowns. For instance, employment in the motor vehicle industry was lower in May than at any time this year, primarily for lack of steel."

Truman Signs Bill to Admit 205,000 DPs, But Says Legislation Is Discriminatory

Washington.—President Truman signed the bill to admit 205,000 displaced persons into the United States over a Democratic party, but in doing so denounced the measure as a mockery which he would have vetoed were Congress still in session.

Mr. Truman said the bill was anti-semitic and he also asserted that it would exclude some displaced persons had fled into the American zone of Germany as anti-Communist refugees.

In explanation of why he had signed the bill so reluctantly, Mr. Truman said he did not wish to penalize its beneficiaries and that he did so with the hope that Congress would rectify its "gross injustice" as soon as possible.

In a blistering statement, the President declared "the bill discriminates in callous fashion against displaced persons of the Jewish faith," and he said this was "a brutal fact," which its sponsors could not obscure by the maze of technicalities in the bill.

The major "device" for discriminating against Jews, he said, was the absolute provision limiting immigration to displaced persons who entered Germany, Austria or Italy on or before December 22, 1945.

Mr. Truman pointed out that most Jewish refugees who had entered those countries by that date have already left, and that most of the Jewish displaced persons now in those areas had arrived after December 22, 1945, "and hence are denied a chance to come to the United States under this bill."

"In objecting to the deadline as one which also discriminates against Catholic refugees from communism, Mr. Truman characterized the "device" as following:

"It is inexplicable, except upon the abhorrent ground of intolerance, that this date should have been chosen instead of April 21, 1947, the date on which Congress began the debate and placed persons camps to further advance the bill."

Mr. Truman's statement echoed previous criticism heard in Congress that the bill was framed to favor Baltic and persons of "German ethnic origin who were largely of the Protestant faith."

The new law stipulates that not less than 40 per cent of all visas issued under it must be made available to DPs "whose place of origin or country of nationality has been incorporated into the Russian zone." This is effect means persons from the Soviet-annexed areas of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia and Poland east of the Curzon line.

Living Costs Take Half Of Most Family Incomes

Washington.—Family expenditures in Birmingham, Ala.; Indianapolis, Ind.; and Portland, Ore., for the essentials in living in 1945—food, housing (including fuel, light and refrigeration), clothing and medical care—took almost half of family incomes after payment of taxes.

This was announced in an article in the June issue of the Monthly Labor Review, official publication of the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The article was based on a study made by the bureau in early 1946.

According to the survey, half or more of the families with two or more persons in these cities had net incomes, after payment of taxes, between $2,000 and $4,000 in 1945.

Median incomes of families, the article said, were $3,200 in Portland, $2,900 in Indianapolis, and $2,400 in Birmingham. Families with incomes over half of single persons had incomes below $2,000.

In Portland, 27.5 percent of families had incomes above $4,000 and in Indianapolis, 23 percent. In Birmingham, only 12.4 percent of families surveyed were in the over $4,000 class.

Families in Portland and Indianapolis spent an average of 27 to 28 cents per dollar per meal for food and 25 cents per dollar for housing, including fuel, light, and refrigeration, according to the study. They spent around $400 during the year for clothing and around $100 each for medical care.

In Birmingham, food expenditures amounted to about 22 cents per person per meal and housing about $25 per month. Clothing expenses were over $350 and medical care expenses about as high as in the other two cities.

Labor Urged to Back Political Drive; Washburn Blasts Record of Congress

Milwaukee.—Lester Washburn, president of the AFL's United Automobile Workers of America, called upon all labor unionists to rally behind labor's efforts to achieve a house-cleaning in Congress and to elect men and women to office who would be truly representative of the people.

Washburn's comment came in connection with a denunciation of the record of the 80th Congress as a "dismal performance." He said:

"In reviewing the record of the 80th Congress, one is shocked by the complete and open domination of big business and private interest lobbies. Enactment of the Taft-Hartley Act is the prime example of how the average worker was sacrificed at the command of the manufacturers' associations. Not only were the workers crippled through specific legislation, but the hasty action of the congress in removing all forms of price control under the prod of big business shows a total disregard for the great bulk of the American people. With morning prices admittedly the nation's No. 1 crisis, Congress a contemptuously refused to take any action or exercise any control which might interfere with industry's ever-growing margin of profits.

"On the question of public housing, the failure of Congress to enact the Taft-Ellender-Warner bill or any alternate is a glaring example of the refusal of legislators to the real estate lobby. With the housing shortage as serious now as it was at the end of the war, the desperate plight of tens of millions of citizens and their families leaves Congress unmoved and indifferent to the people.

"The Social Security Act, intended to be the backbone of aged workers, was weakened and emasculated by this Congress, and despite the President's strong plea, thousands of American aged workers are left bereft of its protection and security.

"The list of Congressional failures could extend indefinitely—a civil rights program which would be a mockery of the minimum wage was refused; gross evils in the corporate tax law evaded, and a farm price program which would be a mockery and ineffectualness.

"On the other side of the ledger big business pulling the strings found Congress more than ready to do its bidding—particularly with the 'aid the rich' tax bill which would give millions of dollars back into the pockets of the big corporations, while Congress created a sixteen billion dollar deficit by the action."

Co-ops of Eastern Europe Under 'Red' Domination

Washington.—In each of the eastern European countries, except Greece, the cooperative movement is now Communist dominated and is being used as an instrument of state policy. This was revealed in an article entitled "Cooperatives in eastern Europe" appearing in the June issue of the Monthly Labor Review, official publication of the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The article stated that this control is the result of a long-time, gradual development, which became increasingly noticeable in the 1930's as totalitarian governments established planned economies in line with Nazi pattern. Before this, cooperatives had been largely ignored by governments or left to their own devices. They began to be utilized more and more for the collection of agricultural products requisitioned from the farmers, for putting into effect the government's price and wage control and rationing, and even for carrying on the import and export of commodities for the state—all strict exigencies.

This meant that the cooperative movement—along with trade-unionism—as a self-governing democratic movement in some of the countries—lost, little by little, the membership control and freedom of speech and action regarding their own operations, which are the essential characteristics.

In the Soviet Union, whose attitudes and practices are increasingly being imposed upon such countries as Bulgaria, Hungary, Poland, and Rumania, the policy toward cooperatives has been outright suppression and confiscation to a grant of monopoly to state enterprises.

The article stated that of the eastern European countries except Greece, the cooperatives—plundered and emasculated under Nazism and Fascism—have become subject to single-party totalitarianism under a different name.

OFFICE EMPLOYES UNION NEGOTIATE WAGE INCREASE

Jacksonville, Fla.—The Office Employes International Union won a 12-cent increase for employes of the Southeastern Greyhound Lines, according to an announcement by A. E. Brown, union vice-president.

In negotiations here covering the operations of Southeastern Greyhound Co. and participated in by representatives of local unions in Jacksonville, Fla., Lexington, Ky., and Nashville, Tenn., an agreement was reached whereby a 5-cents per hour wage increase across the board for all employes was agreed upon together with many wage adjustments and changes in classifications.

PAID HOLIDAYS REPORTED INCREASING UNDER PACTS

New York.—A study of holiday provisions in 100 labor union contracts shows that the trend toward paid holidays for production workers "is evidently continuing," the national industrial conference board reported.

In 76 of the 100 union contracts analyzed, pay is provided on holidays even though no work is performed. In the remaining 22 contracts, time off on holidays without pay is specified.

These findings contrast sharply with findings of a similar study of holiday provisions made by the board in 1942.

$6 BILLION AID BILL SIGNED BY PRESIDENT

Washington.— President Truman signed the foreign-aid appropriation bill thus officially launching the United States on its more than $6,000,000,000 economic rehabilitation spree.

The funds made available will meet the costs, for not less than 12 months nor more than 15, of the European Recovery Program, aid to Greece, Turkey, and China, occupation costs in both Europe and the Far East, and participation in the International Children's Fund and the International Refugee Organization.

Following signing of the measure, Averell Harriman was hailed because the first nations to sign the bilateral aid agreements under the Economic Cooperation Act of 1948.

British Minister Praises Aid Plan At ILO Conference

San Francisco. — George Isaacs, British Minister of Labor and National Service, declared that European nations "have a tremendous part to play in the success of the recovery program which is now under way. Last year, wisely and generously launched in co-operation with the participating countries."

Mr. Isaacs' remarks came in debate on the contents of the annual report of the director-general of the International Labor Office at the ILO conference here which is in session as a delegate.

"The leaders of most of the countries concerned, he said, have given their unqualified support to the present ERP as a program for the establishment of peace and they like to call dollar imperialism." The great majority of the trade unions he declared, have come together in common cause to see whether they have examined the plan freely within their own constitutions and have come freely to the conclusion that the plan was designed to restore the economic health of Europe, and not to communize countries or for political domination.

It was odd, he added, that talk of compulsion and enslavement should have come from countries where some of their neighbours to withraw from the plan had the same machine and their obvious interests.

"I see other signs of the ILO conference, which has reached its halfway mark, but which is already discussing the proposed convention on freedom of association reached agreement on one of the most controversial issues. Committee meetings composed of government, labor, and employer representatives, agreed on the following declaration:

"Workers and employers, without distinction whatsoever shall have the right to establish and, subject only to the rules of the organization concerned, to join organizations of their own choosing without previous authorization. In this convention, the term organization means any organization of workers or employers for furthering and defending the interests of workers or employers."

Attending the ILO conference as labor delegates are Secretary-Treasurer Frank P. Fenton, the AFL's international representative; U. S. government delegates are Senator Elbert Thomas, chairman of the Secretary of Labor David A. Morse, who is the newly elected president of the International Labor Office. J. Burke Knapp, vice president of the Crown-Zellerbach Corporation, West Coast paper manufacturing concern, is U. S. employers. All delegates are accompanied by a staff of advisers.

POSTPONES EFFECTIVE DATE OF REGULATIONS

Washington.—Enforcement of a new interpretation under the Fair Labor Standards Act of overtime rates for types of premium payment, necessitated by the Supreme Court decision in the longshore cases, will not go into effect August 1, as originally set, Administrator Elmer F. Andrews announced.

Instead, the effective date is July 1.

This was announced by Wm. R. McComb, Administrator of the Wage and Hour and Public Contracts Division, U. S. Department of Labor. In ordering the postponement, Mr. McComb said that information from both labor and management sources indicated that additional time is required to make appropriate adjustments, or where necessary, to negotiate with collective bargaining agreements, due to the complexities involved in such agreements as to reopening of contracts.

The Administrator explained that the Labor Department's Conciliation Service and labor growing out of the decision in the case involving the longshoremen and employer practices into accord with the court's decision.

AFL UNION WHIPS CIO IN BARGAINING ELECTION

Cleveland.—The American Federation of Labor scored another victory over the CIO here when employes of the Precision Castings Company voted for an AFL union as their collective bargaining agent in an election conducted by the National Labor Relations Board.

Workers at the plant rejected the CIO's United Automobile Workers and chose the AFL union by a vote of 168 to 130. Eight employes cast ballots in favor of "no union" and 6 ballots were challenged.

Denham Continues Harassment of ITU; Calls for Guilty Verdict Under T-H Law

Washington.—Continuing his harassment of the AFL's International Typographical Union, Robert N. Denham, general counsel for the National Labor Relations Board, urged that the union be found guilty of unfair labor practices under the Taft-Hartley law.

Attorneys for the NLRB, acting on orders from Denham, submitted a proposed order requiring the ITU and its officers to NLRB Trial Examiner Arthur Leff, who has been hearing evidence on a case involving Union hostility to the American Newspaper Publishers Association. Hearings began last December 9 and continued through May 19.

On March 27 an injunction was issued against the international union by District Court Judge Luther Bohanon restraining the ITU from engaging in work on new kinds of equipment or machinery not presently being used normally in composing rooms.

NLRB attorneys also recommended that President Woodruff Randolph and the international officers of the ITU be found guilty of unfair labor practices in violation of the Taft-Hartley law.

The order would also ban the union from requiring employers to refrain from concerted efforts to handle products of employers characterized as "unfair" or "sub-standard."

It would also direct the requirement that foremen belong to the ITU or any local of the national union.

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Trade Union Action Cited As Cause of Higher Wages

San Francisco.—Trade union activity in the highly organized industries has paid off with higher real wages for workers than the wages of employes in industries not so thoroughly unionized.

This was the conclusion reached by Arthur M. Ross, of the University of California Institute of Industrial Relations, in an article entitled "Quarterly Journal of Economics."

In a scholarly, impartial analysis of trade union membership and wage trends, Dr. Ross declared that union action in the highly organized industries has been the relatively greatest factor in the increases won in those industries.

In a table which summarizes his conclusions, Dr. Ross shows that in a broad industrial group, where average hourly earnings in 1932 ranged from 80 cents to $1.20 per hour, those which were most highly unionized completely organized experienced a 50.6 percent increase in real average hourly earnings. On the other hand, workers in unorganized industries gained an increase of only 28.9 percent.

For the purposes of the study, Dr. Ross defined highly organized industries as those in which 80 to 100 percent of the firms operated under a trade union agreement. Intermediate industries were defined if 40 percent or less of the firms in the industries were operating without a trade union contract.

After careful examination of other factors affecting wages, such as proportions of skilled workers employed, size of plant, degree of competition, monopoly, and sensitivity of cyclical influences, Dr. Ross finds that these factors have little significance, or negligible, bearings in the highly unionized industries.

Dr. Ross' article is available in reprint form from the University of California.

NLRB Seeks Injunction in Farm Strike; Says AFL Union Violates Ban on Boycotts

Washington.—Hearings on a petition by the National Labor Relations Board asking for an injunction against a strike of 1,100 agricultural workers in the Imperial Valley district near Fresno, Calif., according to a statement issued on July 1 by Chairman Herzog of the NLRB.

An NLRB petition to enjoin agricultural workers from striking, charges that the Taft-Hartley Labor Management Relations Act of 1947 specifically excludes from its coverage "any individual employed as an agricultural laborer."

The petition for an injunction charges the National Farm Labor Union, a Local 218 of the AFL Teamsters, which has been on strike against the Imperial Valley Fruit Growers Association ranch since October 1, 1947, with violation of the Taft-Hartley law in causing others to cease using, selling, handling, transporting or otherwise dealing in the products of the producer.

Alexander H. Schullman, labor relations attorney of Los Angeles, is associated with the Teamsters' Union and is filing a motion to dismiss the petition for an injunction, on the grounds that the NLRB is seeking to invoke a law that specifically excludes all agricultural workers. The NLRB contends the constitutionality of the action since it would force agricultural laborers while denying them any rights under the law. The Union contends it will also challenge the constitutionality of the section which specifically excludes the Taft-Hartley Act.

The Local 218 of the AFL Farm Labor Union members against the Di Giorgio Fruit Corp. in the ninth month, has been carried on with the full support of the labor movement.

COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE FAVORED FOR MEETINGS

Milwaukee.—To arouse discussions of common interest, the Wage and Salary Service Employes' International Union recently started an opinion poll of its local officers. The first poll uncovered the fact that 69 percent of the locals favored making attendance at union meetings compulsory.

Anthony G. Weinlein, international research and education director for the union, has announced that the "Leadership Opinion Poll" will not be the union's only activity. He said, "Its purpose is solely educational and it is hoped it will serve as a service to the local officers."

The new poll will continue to query local officers on the more-or-less technical aspects of unionism. Results are being published in the BSEIU research publication, "The Locals," sent monthly to all officers.

OLIVER NEW PRESIDENT OF TECHNICAL ENGINEERS

Washington.—At the 57th annual convention of the AFL's International Federation of Technical Engineers, Architects and Draftsmen's Unions, held at Milwaukee, Wis., Stanley Oliver, a member of Puget Sound Local 12, Bremerton, Wash., was elected president.

Mr. Oliver succeeds Mr. Foster J. Pratt, who did not seek reelection.

The International Federation of Technical Engineers, Architects and Draftsmen's Unions is a member of the Government Employes Council of the American Federation of Labor.

FIRMS ASSESSED $14,850 FOR LABOR VIOLATIONS

Washington.— For having "knowingly employed" child labor in violation of the Walsh-Healey Public Contracts Act, 11 manufacturing individuals have been assessed $14,850 in liquidated damages by the government, according to 4 orders affirmed by Secretary of Labor L. B. Schwellenbach.

The violations were disclosed through inspections by the Wage and Hour and Public Contracts Divisions, after which the assessment orders were issued by Wm. R. McComb, administrator. The contracts in amounts over $10,000, provided that employers who "knowingly employ" boys under 16 and girls under 18 in the fields on such contracts must pay to the government the collective bargaining rate of $10 per day for each day of such employment.

AFL's CHEMICAL WORKERS SCORE ELECTION VICTORY

Cincinnati.—Employes at the Hilton-Davis Chemical Co. plant here voted in favor of an AFL union to represent them in negotiations with the company.

In an election conducted by the National Labor Relations Board to determine the collective bargaining agent in the plant, the workers rejected the company union by a vote of 245 to 171. The new collective bargaining agent will be the AFL's Chemical Workers Union which will charter a new local in the Hilton plant.

MAY AUTO PRODUCTION LOWEST IN 20 MONTHS

Detroit.— Factory sales of motor vehicles from U. S. plants fell to 398,521 units in May, the lowest monthly output since September, 1946, the automobile Manufacturers Association announced.

Despite a 20-month low point in May, total output in the first five months of 1948 reached 2,007,239, more than 4 percent above the 1,- 948,275 units built in the comparable period of 1947, the AMA said.

NEW AFGE LOCAL SET UP AT GEORGIA AIR BASE

Macon, Ga.—Civil Service Employes at Warner-Robbins Field, a large government operated air field near here, organized into the American Federation of Government Employes as Local No. 987.

Organizer L. T. Gourley, American Federation of Labor, reports that a large local has been set up representing several hundred members working under Civil Service employment at the large air base.

EL SALVADOR IS 55th ILO STATE

San Francisco.—El Salvador joined the International Labor Organization, the United Nations' specialized conference here, and thus became the 55th nation participating in the international, tripartite labor body.

The Right to VOTE Is Your Priceless Heritage Don't Fail to Use It

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AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

SUPPLEMENT

WILLIAM GREEN, President — WASHINGTON, D. C., FRIDAY, JULY 2, 1948 — GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer

Are You REGISTERED?

Controversial Union Hiring Hall Won By AFL's Seafarers International Union

New York.—The AFL's Seafarers International Union announced it has reached an agreement with 9 shipping companies providing for retention of the controversial union hiring hall.

Announcement of the agreement came on the heels of a ruling by a National Labor Relations Board trial examiner against a CIO union which seemed to threaten the existence of the hiring hall practice.

The SIU agreement which, according to a union estimate, covers one-third of the organization's 50,000 members, also contains a clause under which union membership is not a prerequisite for employment. But it conforms with that section of the Taft-Hartley Act under which the closed shop is banned.

Spokesmen for the SIU said the agreement represented a new high in maritime labor relations and contended that it furnished proof that the ship operators recognized the hiring halls as the best medium through which to obtain competent seamen.

Companies covered by the agreement are the Alcoa Steamship Co., Bull Steamship Co., Baltimore Insular Line, Eastern Steamship Co., Interstate Shipping Co., South Atlantic Steamship Co., Smith & Johnson, Seas Shipping Co., and the American Liberty Co.

According to the union, efforts will be made to obtain similar agreements from other employers with which the SIU has contracts.

A union statement said the new agreement continued the right of the operators to reject unsatisfactory personnel referred by the hiring hall and gave the union the privilege of reopening discussions on all sections of the contract.

Section 1 of the new agreement, relating to hiring halls, reads:

"The union agrees to furnish the company with capable, competent and physically fit persons when and where they are required and of the ratings needed to fill vacancies necessitating the employment of unlicensed personnel in ample time to prevent any delay in the scheduled departure of any vessel covered by this agreement.

"To assure a more harmonious relations and in order to obtain the most qualified employes with the least risk of a delay in the scheduled departure of any vessel covered by this agreement, the company agrees to employ all unlicensed personnel solely through the hiring halls of the union."

The section of the agreement stipulating that union membership is not necessary for employment reads:

"The company recognizes the union as the sole bargaining representative of all members of the unlicensed personnel. It is specifically understood and agreed that membership in the union shall not be a condition of employment of any member of the unlicensed personnel furnished or obtained in the manners specified in this agreement, it being understood that there shall be no discrimination against any member of the unlicensed personnel because of nonmembership in the union."

IBEW Local Scores Sweep In 26 Union Shop Elections

Chicago.—In a report to 16,000 members reviewing union shop elections from August, 1947, to June 30, 1948, M. F. Hartung, president of Local 1031, of the AFL's International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, declared the local had held 20 such elections in the period and won all of them by a vote of approximately 95 percent.

Listing all 26 companies, the dates of the elections and the vote cast for and against the union, Darling said:

"Despite the Taft-Hartley theory that employees are prisoners of their union officials, the voting record of Local 1031 members indicates that they want union shops, that they endorse the policies of the union officials, and that they are not at all anxious to leave the union. That is not only a vindication of confidence in Local 1031, it is also another indication that the Taft-Hartley law was ill-founded."

Following is the record of the IBEW union:

Company	Voters	Votes cast in favor of IBEW	% of votes for IBEW
American Phenolic Corp.	631	615	97
Audio Electric Co.	29	19	95
Advance Transformer Co.	138	94	68
Berns Mfg. Co.	44	41	93
Cameron Surgical Spec. Co.	46	46	100
Carter Radio Division, Permoflux Parts Co.	93	90	97
C. P. Clare & Co.	196	180	92
Consolidated Radio Products Co.	56	56	100
D. X. Radio Co.	37	34	92
Harvilla-Midwest Corp.	37	37	100
Industrial Condenser Corp.	120	112	93
Jefferson Electric Co.	207	192	93
Lamicoid Fabricators, Inc.	170	151	89
Lyon & Healy, Inc.	25	24	96
Merceid Corporation	206	166	81
Oak Mfg. Co.	466	438	94
Operadio Mfg. Co.	209	166	79
Permoflux Corp.	82	81	99
Radio Speakers, Inc.	146	140	96
Radiant Mfg. Corp.	204	180	88
Sola Electric Co.	130	93	93
Standard Radio Products Co.	101	97	96
Standard Transformer Co.	323	315	97
Webster-Chicago Corp.	1,037	1,027	99
Wells-Gardner & Co.	596	508	85
Wilder Mfg. Co.	68	63	93
Totals	6,120	5,707	95

WHOLESALE PRICES SET POSTWAR PEAK

Washington. — Wholesale prices continued to rise, and in the week ending June 26 set a new postwar high, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The BLS wholesale price index which is based on prices of 900 commodities stood at 166.7 percent of the 1926 average, 0.7 percent above the previous postwar high registered in January, 1948, and only 0.3 percent below the all-time peak set in May, 1920.

Prices of farm products and foods led the way again for the soaring index. Average prices for foods increased 1.3 percent during the week to set a level 2.3 percent above a month ago and 12.2 percent higher than the level of prices for the samh period in 1947.

Fenton Assails Totalitarianism At ILO Conclave

San Francisco.—Delegates to the International Labor Organization heard Frank Fenton, United States worker delegate, denounce totalitarianism of "Red totalitarianism" in eastern Europe.

Mr. Fenton, international representative of the American Federation of Labor, opened the ILO conference, which includes delegates from several of the countries behind Russia, that "the free trade union movement has been the victim of repressive measures to end forced labor in any form.

"You here know," he said, "that forced labor is a practice of a particularly vicious sort—exists in some countries, notably in the areas of eastern Europe, where Red totalitarianism which is its twin, continues to hold millions of workers as its slaves.

"Let me say here bluntly that we intend to tolerate no totalitarianism, whether it's weak or strong."

Mr. Fenton recalled that at last year's ILO meeting in Geneva a resolution was introduced by M. Jouhaux of France, head of the International Labor Organization to the Marshall Plan. The resolution was seconded, he said, by the Czechoslovak representative of Poland. He added:

"The company," the pilots' association head elaborated, "has, until this time, refused to meet the proper government which subsidizes it with great generosity. It has refused agreements with his pilots, refused to negotiate with the National Mediation Board which has jurisdiction in the dispute, and violated all ethics of collective bargaining. It is the duty of the International Labor Board to require it to abide by the laws that they are charged with enforcing."

Monthly Benefits for Total Disability Urged by Advisory Security Council

Washington.—The payment of monthly cash benefits to workers deprived of earning power because of permanent and total disability was recommended to the Senate Committee on Finance by the Advisory Council on Social Security.

Protection against the risk of permanent and total disability, the council points out, is one of the most urgent economic needs of American workers. These workers, the council said, can save enough to support themselves and their families during a long period of total disablement—a period which may last for the rest of the worker's life.

Monthly benefits, according to the recommendations, would be paid under the Social Security Act's old-age and survivors insurance program when a person covered by the program becomes permanently and totally disabled, just as benefits are now paid to insured workers who retire.

The advisory council is composed of 12 citizen members appointed by the Senate committee last fall. Serving as chairman of the group is Administrative Assistant to the President, the AFL's director of political activities.

Stressing its belief in contributory social insurance rather than public assistance as the most satisfactory long-range method of achieving security, the council said that the totally disabled person should not have to be financially destitute before he can become eligible for benefits. "Certainly there is as great a need to conserve the resources, the self-reliance, dignity, and self-respect of disabled workers as of any other group."

The AFL and CIO workers now have any protection against permanent and total disability, according to the council. There is protection for railroad workers, some federal, state and local government employes; and veterans in a small number of occupations have purchased disability protection from private insurance companies. State workmen's compensation acts provide compensation for disabilities which are the result of a work injury. More than 16 of 17 percent of all total disabilities, the report points out, however, result from causes not connected with the worker's employment. Most workers who become disabled now have to rely on relief.

Costs of the recommended program are expected to be very low. About 1/10 to 1/4 of 1 percent of payroll would cover the "level-premium" costs of the proposed benefits, and even smaller amounts would be required in the early years. Level-cost estimates of the old-age insurance recommended by the council in the earlier report range from 8 to 7 percent of payroll.

Major points in the recommended permanent total disability insurance program are:

1. Disability protection to "insured" workers who have 10 years or more of work in jobs covered by the law and who also have had employment in at least one-half the time after 1948 and before becoming disabled and also had it for time within the period immediately before the disabling begins.

2. To receive benefits, an insured person must be "permanently and totally" disabled for more than 6 consecutive months, or 26 weeks, must be one which can be medically proved by objective tests and which is likely to last for a long and indefinite time.

3. Monthly benefits to the worker for any month in which he is disabled if he were entitled to a retirement benefit under old-age insurance for part of the law. No benefits for dependents would be provided.

4. Preservation of the disabled person's rights to full old-age and survivorship protection so that he and his dependents could not lose this protection, as now sometimes happens when a worker becomes disabled.

5. Rehabilitation of beneficiaries if that service will help them to return to gainful work.

6. Benefits to be stopped if the disabled person recovers, refuses to accept rehabilitation when it is necessary, to undergo periodic medical examinations to prove that he is still disabled.

7. No benefits should be paid, the council recommended, during any period for which compensation is payable under a workmen's compensation law.

USES Falls 1,000,000 Jobs; Increase of 72% Over April

Washington.—Reflecting the continuing expansion of agricultural activities, total job placements by employment offices rose sharply in May.

Robert C. Goodwin, director of the United States Employment Service, announced that reports submitted by state employment services showed local employment offices in May had made 1,444,000 referrals of workers to jobs and effected 1,005,700 job placements, a 72.7 percent increase over April.

Agricultural placements in May, Mr. Goodwin said, were 323,400, a better than fourfold increase compared to April. Nonagricultural placements in May totaled 482,300, a 9.4 percent increase over the previous month.

The number of new job applications filed at local employment offices in May declined slightly below new applications filed in April.

"New applications for jobs declined 5 percent from 1,264,000 to 827,000," Mr. Goodwin said. "Veterans showed the largest relative decrease—down 13 percent to 142,600. New applications filed by veterans moved counter to the general trend to a total of 208,300 with an increase of almost 10 percent over the previous month.

Mr. Goodwin said the rising rate of job placements by local offices reflects in part, the upward trend of employment opportunities in the labor market.

"Industries are," he said, "that job placements through the local offices will continue at a high rate as total employment moves upward under the stimulus of high agricultural activity, the Selective Service Program and the expansion of national defense production. As indicated a month ago, total employment is expected to reach a peak of 61,000,000 or more when agricultural activities are in full swing."

Government Attorneys Urge Full Probe Of Actions Taken by National Airlines

Chicago.—Strike-plagued National Airlines, whose virulent antilabor policies bred inevitable strikes of its regular, veteran and skilled pilots and three other categories of employes, soon may have to answer charges of violation of federal laws brought against the company by the AFL's Air Line Pilots association, representatives of the National pilots who have been on strike since last February 1.

Enforcement attorneys of the Civil Aeronautics Board, in answer to a motion of National pilots to dismiss the complaint of the Air Line Pilots Association charging the company with violation of the Railway Labor Act and the Civil Aeronautics Act, recommended that the company's motion be dismissed and declared also that the facts contained in ALPA's petition warranted an investigation.

The enforcement attorneys also overruled National's contention that the Civil Aeronautics Board did not have jurisdiction. Arguments of the enforcement attorneys stipulated:

(1) The Civil Aeronautics Board has jurisdiction to investigate, hear and determine violations of the Railway Labor Act.

(2) The board should not hold the proceeding in abeyance pending disposition of the damage suit filed by ALPA in the New York Supreme Court.

(3) The union's complaint states facts which warrant an investigation on the part of the board and should not, therefore, be dismissed, the attorneys said.

"We believe that the complaint alleges facts which, if true, may justify the conclusion that the bargain in good faith as required by the Railway Labor Act," the enforcement attorneys stated.

"The company," the pilots' association head elaborated, "has, until this time, refused to meet the proper government which subsidizes it with great generosity. It has refused agreements with his pilots, refused to negotiate with the National Mediation Board which has jurisdiction in the dispute, and violated all ethics of collective bargaining. It is the duty of the International Labor Board to require it to abide by the laws that they are charged with enforcing."

Improved Social Security Debated on AFL Program

Washington.—Representative John D. Dingell, of Michigan, declared that the new contributory social security and social health insurance which, to date, has not been incorporated into the nation's social security system.

Mr. Dingell's statement was made during his appearance on "America United," a nationwide radio discussion sponsored by the American Federation of Labor and broadcast over the nation-wide network of the National Broadcasting Company on Sunday, June 27, EDT.

Other participants on the program which was devoted to the question, "How Improve Our Social Security System?" were Jos. F. Padway, Pearl, the AFL's director of publicity; Emerson P. Schmidt, representing the U. S. Chamber of Commerce, and Ralph Helvering, of the National Grange.

The speakers were in general agreement that the social security laws should be extended to cover more of the nation's workers and that the benefits payable under the present law should be increased, but differed on the question of the means which should be used to accomplish the improvements.

Representatives Dingell and Mr. Pearl called for the immediate extension of the social security law to cover the 20,000,000 workers now excluded and assailed the bill which is now before the senate finance committee for action by extending 750,000 persons formerly covered by the present law from benefits due them. Commenting on the bill which would, in effect, destroy social security matters, Representative Dingell said, "I think they did miserably."

Dr. Schmidt tended toward the view that the present program had done a good job, and while supporting moves leading toward the improvement of the present law, urged caution and study before any additional changes are incorporated.

Mr. Helvering declared that the farmers want to be included under the law and urged action to accomplish this objective.

The subject of health insurance was the most spirited debate and difference of opinion on the part of the participants. Mr. Pearl supported the view advanced by Representative Dingell that health insurance is essential to the maintenance of the medical care which millions of Americans who cannot afford adequate care under present circumstances.

Dr. Schmidt and Mr. Halverson objected to the projection of the federal government into the health insurance field. Mr. Halverson took exception to the findings of the Selective Service System which showed that physical deficiencies were the cause of the rejection of 4,000,000 men for poor health. Schmidt charged that the figures had been "grossly misinterpreted."

Plans for National Safety Parley Set; Publications to Aid Drive on Accidents

Washington.—In response to President Truman's instructions, the Labor Department is pushing plans for the National Conference on Industrial Safety to be held here from September 27 to 29.

As part of its campaign to promote greater safety in the nation's factories, a series of publications will be prepared by the bureau and state and federal labor departments, Truman announced with the receipt of the first 000 injured, 17,000 killed and 91,000 disabled for life in accidents which the human suffering and economic and financial losses resulting from industrial accidents.

Author of "Butch Learned the Hard Way" may be obtained from the Bureau of Labor Standards, U. S. Department of Labor, Washington 25, D. C. Price is 10 cents per copy. Quantities may be purchased at 10 cents per copy. Other publications are: Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C.

A 25 percent discount is allowed on orders of 100 or more.

seconds of the day. One worker is killed or crippled every 4 minutes. Nine workers are killed every hour and over $4½ billion last year. As nearly as these figures can be estimated, they represent a needless and tragic waste of human and material resources."

Calling for a "concentrated and coordinated effort by every man concerned—management, labor, voluntary and professional groups, and state and federal labor departments," President Truman declared that the 1947 record of 16,000 injured, 17,000 killed and 91,000 disabled for life in accidents which the human suffering and economic and financial losses resulting from industrial accidents.

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VA Releases Explanation of New Law Increasing Maximum Pay for Training

Washington.—The Veterans Administration explained how the ceiling increase affects veterans in education and training under the GI bill affect trainees enrolled in apprenticeship programs.

Not all apprentices will benefit by the changes, VA said in answer to numerous inquiries.

Some apprentices already are receiving the maximum now authorized by the GI bill. These rates are $65 a month for veterans without dependents and $90 for a veteran with one or more dependents.

Other apprentices who are training for jobs that never will pay as much as the new ceiling limits may receive little or no benefit.

VA emphasized that the GI bill did not intend that a veteran, while in training, should receive total pay from his trainer and the government that the pay he will receive after he is fully trained.

As a result, the amount of subsistence an apprentice will be paid usually not exceed the lower of these rates:

(1) The difference between his current rate of pay and the objective wage (journeyman's pay).

(2) The difference between the actual wage received by the veteran for which he qualifies, including actual income, and the veteran's allowance.

Apprentices combining school and training on the job receive increased increases proportionate to the amount of time they devote to their school work.

The increased benefits are retroactive to April 1 in most cases. The law provides that veterans training at the adjusted rate will include all training after July 1 through the end of the subsistence period covered by their GI bill.

AUTO SAFETY RECORD SHOWS DECLINE IN MAY

Chicago.—The country's traffic deaths increased in May for the first time in 7 months.

A total of 2,650 highway fatalities were recorded in May—only 2 more than 2,570 in May, 1947. October, 1947, was the last previous month to show an increase over the corresponding month of the year before.

The May toll brought the year's total to 11,270, 5 percent less than the 11,830 killed in the first five months of 1947.

The National Safety Council, which released the figures, said the Mountain States, where the most lagging increase in fatalities, were chiefly responsible for the rise in fatalities in May. Fatalities also rose in the Atlantic States. The Pacific States registered improvement, with the Central States holding even.

Of the 426 cities reporting, 285 had no traffic deaths in May. For the first 5 months of 1948, 189 cities had perfect records. The largest were Lawrence, Quincy and Newton, all in Massachusetts. Newark reported a 61 percent improvement; Philadelphia, 59; Boston, 27; New York, 7.

GRAIN RELEASED FOR BREW, LACK OF COOPERATION HIT

Washington. — Brewers were released from their voluntary grain-saving pledges by Secretary of Agriculture Charles F. Brannan.

Mr. Brannan said there still was need for the grain which are unwilling to accept voluntary measures."

AFL UNIT VOTES UNION SHOP

Newark.—Under a Taft-Hartley Act requirement the Amalgamated Association of Street Car, Electric Railway and Motor Coach Employes of America, AFL, approved the retention of the union shop in the Public Service Coordinated Transport by a vote of 5,429 to 180.

AFL ALUMINUM WORKERS APPROVE WAGE INCREASE

Masena, N. Y.—An AFL Aluminum Workers Union approved an hourly wage boost ranging from 10 to 16 cents offered by the Aluminum Co. of America.

AFL unions at Lafayette, Ind., and East St. Louis, Ill., also have approved the offer, union officials said.

The unions previously had rejected an 8 percent increase which would have ranged from 9 to 15 cents.

CI TERM INSURANCE EXTENDED FOR 5 YEARS

Washington. — President Truman enacted a measure extending for 5 years the period during which members of the armed services and veterans of World War II may continue to carry national service life insurance on level term rates. Level term rates are low premiums, under which the holder builds up no cash or loan value but has full coverage in event of death or permanent disability.

FOUR NEW BOARDS NAMED BY PRESIDENT

Washington.—President Truman has appointed four new boards to settle railroad disputes.

The boards will hear disputes between the railroads and the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen, the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen, the Brotherhood of Railway Clerks and the Switchmen's Union of North America.

AFL BREWERY WORKERS WIN NEW WAGE BOOST

Reading, Pa.—More than 300 brewery employes in Berks and Lebanon counties were granted 10-cent-per-hour wage increases, H. Clyde Gross, business agent for the AFL's Brewery Workers Union Local 198, announced.

Gross said, came after three months of negotiations between the Yuengling Brewery and Lebanon Valley Brewing. Other provisions in the agreement provide for 7 paid holidays, 2 weeks vacation and minimum pay to night shift employes.

IBEW UNION REELECTS ALL INCUMBENT OFFICERS

New York.—Regular biennial elections for officers of Local 3 of the IBEW, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, run under the proportional system of voting, Harry Kelley, chairman of the New York State Labor Relations Board, resulted in the reelection of all incumbent officers.

Among those reelected were: Jere F. Sullivan, president; Robert Albrecht, Sr., vice-president; Armand D'Angelo, recording secretary; and William Beck, financial secretary. In addition, a 5-man executive board and 3-man examining board were returned to their posts.

131,288 APPRENTICES IN BUILDING TRADES

Washington.—The number of apprentices in the building trades industry continued to rise, with 131,288 employed as of March 31, 1948, the Apprenticeship, U. S. Department of Labor announced.

This represents an increase of 2.4 percent over the 128,208 employed at the beginning of the year. The latest total, obtained from 6,901 reports from all building trades, is the largest for any time high but does not represent complete coverage.

The largest increase was registered in the pipe trades which had charge of apprentices rose from 18,906 to 20,067 during May. All trade groups showed a gain except painting and decorating, which declined slightly during the month.

A breakdown of the apprentices employed in other than the pipe trades in the construction industries follows: Woodworking trades, 47,; city electrical trades, 19,056; travel trades, 18,075; sheet metal working trades, 10,331; painting trades, 9,007; and other building trades, 6,838.

CEYLON IS 59TH ILO MEMBER

San Francisco.—Ceylon became the 59th member nation of the International Labor Organization when delegates to the ILO conference here voted unanimously in favor of its admittance as a member state.

TOTAL CONSUMER CREDIT TOPS $13 BILLION MARK

Washington.—The swelling volume of installment plan buying sent total consumer credit to a new record high of $13,804,000,000 at the start of June, the Federal Reserve Board reported.

Credit outstanding for consumer buying alone amounted to $6,957,000,000, or a new record high, the Board's May. Automobile sales accounted for $3,286,000,000 of the total, a new high.

The rise in the volume of installment credit was partly offset by decreases in charge accounts and single-payment loans—those repayable in a lump sum.

TRUMAN SIGNS MEASURE FOR U. S. HOSPITAL AID

Washington. — President Truman signed a bill providing for allotment of a minimum of $100,000 annually to each state for the construction of hospitals under the federal aid program. During congressional debate it was brought out that current allotments under a complicated formula go as low as $40,000 for Alaska and $40,875 for Nevada, with Delaware getting $98,625. Under the new law they will get at least $100,000, which all other states now exceed.